

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, 17-18 and 20-21 are amended with this preliminary amendment. The amendment of the above claims are made to place the claims into conventional U.S. format, and do not constitute narrowing amendments nor amendments made for reasons relating to patentability within the meaning of Festo. Consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, MAIKP118US.

Respectfully submitted,
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

By



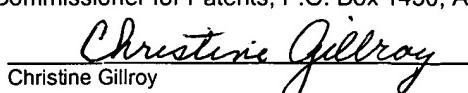
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or item referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date March 17, 2004



Christine Gillroy